

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

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1. (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:
generation means for generating a bitmap image on the basis of
inputted object data;
hold means for holding attribute information representing an plural
types of attributes of said the inputted object data in correspondence with each pixel of a
bitmap image generated by said generation means;
conversion means for converting the bitmap image generated by said
generation means into data capable of being processed by an image output unit; and
switch means for switching the contents of processing in said
conversion means on the basis of a combination of the plural types of attributes represented
by the attribute information held by said hold means.
 2. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said holding means holds an attribute map in which the attribute
information is arranged for each pixel corresponding to a two-dimensional coordinate
position of said the bitmap image.

3. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said holding means embeds said attribute information into bits of a part
of each pixel data of said the bitmap image.

4. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said the attribute information contains includes information representing
whether object data corresponding thereto has the form of bitmap data or the form of vector
data.

5. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said conversion means includes processing for converting a bitmap image
generated by said generation means into binary data using a dither matrix, and said
switching means changes the dither matrix used in said conversion means on the basis of
said the attribute information.

6. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to
Claim 1, wherein said generation means generates a bitmap image based on RGB color
space, said conversion means includes color conversion processing for converting each
pixel data of said the bitmap image into pixel data represented by YMCK color space, and
said switch means changes an algorithm of said color conversion processing on the basis of
the attribute information held by said holding means.

7. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, said the wherein attribute information is configured by a plurality of bits, and said switch means switches the contents of processing of said conversion means in accordance with a combination of ON/OFF states of each bit.

8. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein each bit of said the attribute information represents an independent attribute.

9. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said the attribute information contains a bit group representing a specific attribute using a plurality of bits.

10. (Currently Amended) The image processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said the object data is represented by a page description language.

11. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing a control program for image processing, said control program comprising:

program codes for a generation process for generating a bitmap image on the basis of object data inputted;

codes of a holding process for holding attribute information representing an attribute plural types of attributes of said the object data with bringing it

into correspondence with each pixel of a bitmap image generated in said generation process for holding in a memory;

codes of a conversion process for converting the bitmap image generated in said generation process into data capable of being processed by an image output unit; and

codes of a switching process for switching the contents of processing in said conversion process on the basis of a combination of the plural types of attributes represented by the attribute information held by said holding process.

12. (Currently Amended) An image processing system having a host device and an image output unit, comprising:

generation means for generating a bitmap image on the basis of object inputted data;

hold means for holding attribute information representing plural types of attributes of said inputted object data in correspondence with each pixel of the bitmap image generated by said generation means;

conversion means for converting the bitmap image generated by said generation means into data capable of being processed by said the image output unit; and

switch means for switching the contents of processing in said conversion means on the basis of a combination of the plural types of attributes represented by the attribute information held by said hold means.

13. (Currently Amended) The image processing system according to
Claim 12, wherein said the attribute information has includes information organized
hierarchically, and wherein there are one or more units of attribute information of low order
concept which is subordinate to that of high order concept.

14. (Currently Amended) The image processing system according to
Claim 12, wherein said the attribute information contains information representing whether
object data corresponding thereto is represents a monochrome attribute or a color attribute
object.

15. (Currently Amended) The image processing system according to
Claim 12, wherein said the attribute information contains information representing whether
object data corresponding thereto is represents a character attribute or any attribute kind of
object other than characters.

16. (Currently Amended) The image processing system according to
Claim 12, wherein said the attribute information contains information representing whether
it has a single bit or a plurality of bit strings and whether or not it is a ground, and wherein
said conversion means omits processing in for a pixel which is a ground.

17. (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising the
steps of:

generating a bitmap image on the basis of object data inputted;
holding in a memory attribute information representing plural types
of attributes of said the inputted object data in correspondence with each pixel of the
bitmap image generated in said generation process generating step;
converting the bitmap image generated in said generation process
generating step into data capable of being processed by an image output unit; and
switching the contents of processing in said conversion process on
the basis of a combination of the plural types of attributes represented by the attribute
information held in said holding process step

18. - 25. (Canceled)